

Network 2 Infopage

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Softball Tournament Fosters Team Spirit

Submitted by Donna Sciotti

Canandaigua VA Medical Center was the host of the Network's first softball tournament. Teams from Bath, Canandaigua, Syracuse and Albany participated in the games held in October. Special thanks goes out to **Kerry Grant** who 'got the ball rolling' on the whole project and **Hank Reigel** who set the rules and got the field ready for play.

Competition was tough but Bath brought home the trophy. The winners will host the next tournament sometime this spring.

It's no wonder that Bath took home the trophy. Team Coach, **Kim Hobbs** took her assignment seriously - holding several practices for her team. The local Union donated \$100 for the team to purchase hats and shirts and each team member pitched in some money to make up the difference.

The Canandaigua Employee Association graciously provided the food. All the sites were very supportive of each other - and a good time was had by all!



The winning team - Bath.

In Remembrance

Network Chief Logistics Officer **Lou Nangeroni** passed away on October 27 after a long illness.

Lou was well-known for his long VA career and numerous accomplishments, including: the reorganization of A&MM, the development of Integrated Funds Control, Accounting, and Procurement (IFCAP), as a leader in national best practices in logistics management, and for his numerous presentations at national conferences. He won numerous awards including VA Logistics Manager of the Year Award (1999) and Commendation from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (1994).

Memorials can be made to the Nangeroni Fund, an education fund for his children, c/o the VA Employees Association, Stratton VA Medical Center.

Appointments

- **Donna Dardaris** has been named Health Systems Specialist for Operations, Network Office. She previously was Operations Officer, Network Service Line.
- **Father Harlan**, Chaplain, VA Western New York Healthcare System at Buffalo, has been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserves.
- **Dr. Chong Kim** has been named the Lead Psychiatrist at the Stratton VA Medical Center (VAMC).
- **Dr. Don Pasquale** has been named the Associate Chief of Staff for Research at the Stratton VAMC.
- **Dr. Joseph Sacco**, Chief of Cardiology, Stratton VAMC was appointed to the Research Committee of the American Heart Association's Northeast Affiliate. Dr. Sacco was honored earlier this year when he was listed (for the fourth time) in the most recent edition of Best Doctors in America.

Awards and Recognition

- The Network received a \$1,033,159 grant from headquarters for implementing a Tele-Home Care plan.
- The VA Western New York Healthcare System's (VAWNYHS) diabetes self-management education program was awarded continued recognition from the American Diabetes Association. This award is for three years.
- Canandaigua VA Medical Center (VAMC) received a National Chaplain Service "Best Practice in Chaplaincy" award for 2002. The chaplains were recognized for their "Grief Process Group" offered at the Canandaigua VAMC and Rochester VA Outpatient Clinic. The "Grief Process Group" was developed by Chaplains: **Theodore Bleck-Doran, Joseph McAfee, Richard Brown, Robert Searle, and Gary Bauch**. As a Best Practice, the "Grief Process Group" becomes a nationally recognized practice that can be implemented at other VA facilities across the nation.
- **Dana Culligan**, Audiologist at the Rochester VA Outpatient Clinic received an ACE award presented by ASHA. The award recognizes Audiologists and Speech Pathologists who pursue additional clinical education courses in their respective career fields.
- **Julie Laurenzi**, CSW, Stratton VA Medical Center (VAMC) will serve a two-year term as an Adjunct Public Service Professor at the State University of New York Albany School of Social Welfare.
- **Bonita Reid** BSN, RN at VAWNYHS received the Delegate Assembly Award from the New York State Nurses Association.
- **Laura Russillio** MSN, RN at VAWNYHS received the Nursing Practice Award from the New York State Nurses Association.
- **Donna Sciotti**, Radiology Manager, Bath VAMC went 'above and beyond' the call of duty when an x-ray revealed that a patient had broken a bone. The patient had already left the facility and returned home, so Donna volunteered to deliver and apply a splint to the patient's hand. The following day the patient was able to come back in to get his cast.
- Diagnostics and Therapeutics Care Line Manager, **Tom Wisnieski** was selected for the Executive Career Field Training Program. The VHA's Executive Resource Board has approved Tom's nomination as an Executive Career Field (ECF) Candidate.

Published

Dr. M. Regina Castro, Dr. Pedro J. Caraballo, and Dr. John C. Morris, Stratton VA Medical Center (VAMC) had an article published in The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism, entitled "Effectiveness of Thyroid Hormone Suppressive Therapy in Benign Solitary Thyroid Nodules: A Meta-Analysis."

Dr. Anna Engel and Dr. Peter Engel, Stratton VAMC had an article published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry 2002; 36:443-448, entitled "George L. Engel 1913-1999: Remembering His Life and Work: Strengthening a Father-Son Bond in a New Time of Grief."



Network Interns

The Stratton VA Medical is sponsoring a dietetic intern from Russell Sage College. This year's intern is **Sandra Varno**, a returning student who completed her undergraduate degree from Sage. Sandra will be at the Stratton VA for eight weeks.

The VA Western New York Healthcare System at Buffalo is also sponsoring an intern. **Joyce Pecky** is from the University of Buffalo. She will be in a clinical rotation at the facility for seven weeks. Then, she will go to Batavia for an additional three weeks of training.

For more information about Undergraduate Dietetic or Master's Degree Coordinated Internships in the VA, please check out the website at: **va.gov/nfs/Dieteticinternships.htm**